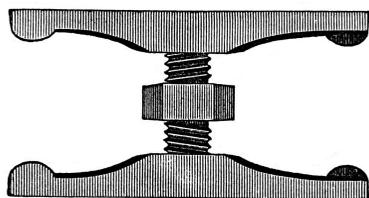




The Porcupine's Quill

DISTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS

Spring 2019



The Porcupine's Quill
Press sharply.

Now Available as Exemplary e-Books



In recent years all of our frontlist, and select backlist, has become available in searchable PDF format designed primarily for use on tablets. Seventeen of these quality digital productions have been favoured with recognition by the eLit awards programme administered by the Jenkins Group of Traverse City, MI.

To date the collection as a whole includes 100 Porcupine's Quill titles as well as 21 backlist issues of the *Devil's Artisan*. To explore the range:

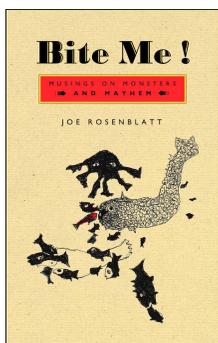
- contact us directly at store.porcupinesquill.ca
- or order through **Google Play**, which will facilitate international sales in any number of local currencies. Digital copies of the *Devil's Artisan* are also available from **Magzter**, and select PQL backlist may be available from **Ebsco**, **Gibson Library Services**, **ProQuest** and **Scribd**.

The collection features the poetry of P.K. Page, the wordless novels of George A. Walker and all seventeen titles in our Essential Poets series, showcasing work by Margaret Avison, Earle Birney, Don Coles, Daryl Hine, D.G. Jones, M. Travis Lane, Jay Macpherson, Richard Outram, P.K. Page, James Reaney and other luminaries.



STICKY fingers is a somewhat irreverent moniker we have adopted for a new digital imprint of the Porcupine's Quill that offers short, attractive, informative editions that probe the intersection between Canadian literature and the book arts, packaged exclusively for mobile devices.

Each chapbook is available in ePub for iPads and Android tablets, and Mobi for Kindle, and retails for \$2.99. The latest release, *The Fleming Files*, features eleven articles that originally appeared in the *Devil's Artisan* in 2008. The ePub version was recently offered as a promotion orchestrated by the Association of Registered Graphic Designers.



Bite Me!
Joe Rosenblatt

MARCH

Joe Rosenblatt delights in revealing a fantastical hidden world of ravenous monsters and rapacious critters of all sorts—one in which ‘either you’re the eater, or the one who’ll be consumed.’

In *Bite Me!*, idiosyncratic observations and provocative musings illuminate an unseen world of creatures both real and imagined.

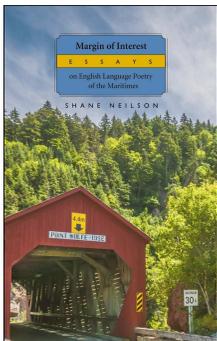
This is a collection populated by eighty-foot-long boa constrictors and carnivorous pitcher plants. Of colossal clams that inhale noxious volcanic fumes and of bioluminescent ocean-dwelling critters that appear as ghostly mermaids to unsuspecting submariners. It is a collection in which the unfortunate Monster Boy copes with the consequences of schoolyard bullying—and flesh-liquefying stomach acid—while the agoraphobic Birdman ‘strives to ascend skyward’ though he is permanently grounded.

The poems and musings in *Bite Me!* are interested in ‘the bizarre side of Mother Nature’s handiwork’, from the depths of the ocean to the wilds of the tropical rainforest ... to the cozy hearth of the domesticated housecat. In this collection characterized by isolation and unquenchable need, Rosenblatt celebrates life in all its varied forms while awaiting that moment when ‘time drifting as a bottom feeder makes a meal of us.’

Joe Rosenblatt is an accomplished author and artist who, during the course of a five-decade career has produced over twenty books of poetry, fiction, non-fiction and visual art. Rosenblatt has received several major awards, including the Governor General’s Award for his poetry collection *Top Soil*, as well as the B.C. Book Prize for *Poetry Hotel* in 1986. He lives in Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island.

\$16.95 • 96 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-424-7



Margin of Interest

Shane Neilson

MARCH

Shane Neilson's essays showcase the rich history of poetry in the Canadian Maritimes, recognizing the drawbacks of regional frameworks while finding power and beauty in the literary traditions of writers who exist on the margins of Canadian poetry and culture.

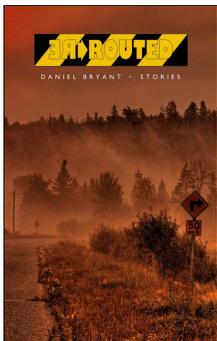
As Shane Neilson writes in *Margin of Interest*, 'Maritime poetry is the sum of what's come before, a unique history, and yes, a unique place.'

In *Margin of Interest* Neilson examines representation, identity, power and the politics of literary history, from the creative traditions of the Mi'kmaq to the work of young poets today. He pays due homage to iconic Maritime writers (Milton Acorn, Alden Nowlan, George Elliott Clarke), shines a critical spotlight on lesser-known masters from the region (Travis Lane, Wayne Clifford) and provides a glimpse inside the 'diverse ecosystem' of poets under 40 writing in or about the Maritimes (Rebecca Thomas, Lucas Crawford, El Jones). He also combats the prejudices so often applied to writers from Atlantic Canada—stigma associated with mental illness, rigid gendering, vernacular language and even poetic form—and advocates for a long-overdue reappropriation of the regionalist stance, as well as a proper recognition of the region's writers and their contribution to the Canadian literary landscape.

Shane Neilson is a poet and physician who has published in the genres of poetry, memoir, short fiction, biography and literary criticism. He is currently a Fellow of the College of Family Physicians of Canada, a Vanier Scholar at McMaster University and editor for Victoria, B.C. publisher Frog Hollow Press. Though he lives in Oakville, Ontario, all of his work is rooted in rural New Brunswick.

\$22.95 • 272 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

LITERARY CRITICISM/Poetry • 978-0-88984-420-9



Rerouted

Daniel Bryant

←
APRIL

Expect the unexpected in Daniel Bryant's collection of linked short stories in which myth, mirth and mayhem are never far away.

A postal worker confronts the supernatural after he is assigned a cursed route near an abandoned tannery. An attempted robbery goes awry when dimwitted thieves decide to knock off a coffee joint ... before it opens for business. Touring musicians experience uncomfortably close encounters while on the road in Northern Ontario. Serial killers and shape shifters are the least of their problems ... bad song writing—that's the real elephant in the room.

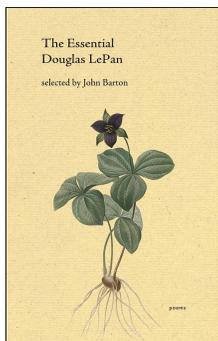
These and other stories form a linked narrative in which the mysterious Benny Tak appears and disappears. Is he a cipher? Some insidious background performer who shows up in everyone's personal narrative? Either way, he is ready for his close-up—with lines memorized.

Eerie and at times otherworldly, the darkly comic tales in *Rerouted* take surprising detours, exploring what happens when plans change, things get weird, and fate is rerouted.

Daniel Bryant was born in Montreal and grew up in the small town of Aurora, Ontario. He graduated with an Honours B.A. in English from York University and received the Timothy Findley/William Whitehead Scholarship to attend the Humber School for Writers Correspondence Program. He has mentored with Paul Quarrington and Will Ferguson. *Rerouted* is his first collection of short stories. When not writing, Dan has worked many interesting jobs: at a large printing company, a tannery, a tart factory, and on a film crew. He currently works for Canada Post as a letter carrier. He lives in Toronto with his wife, Nancy.

\$19.95 • 192 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

FICTION/Short Stories • 978-0-88984-421-6



The Essential Douglas LePan

selected by John Barton

MAY

The 19th volume in the Essential Poets series presents the poetry of Douglas LePan in a wide-ranging collection—from tense verses on the fog of war to homoerotic love poems to lyrics in praise of the natural world—in celebration of the heart's blood 'that runs through and supports everything mankind has made'.

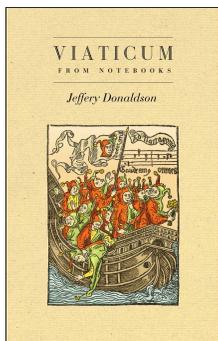
A veteran of the Second World War, Douglas LePan never forgot his experience of the horrors of battle. His bold, powerful verses often recall scenes of valour, tenacity and honour amid the 'festivals of savagery' that soldiers face at every turn. LePan did not only laud individual bravery; he counterbalanced his focus on combat with luminous moments of comradeship, vulnerability and candour. Whether writing about love, war or the natural world, LePan's work serves to 'Plunder the mind's aerial cages/Or the heart's deep catacombs', and reveals the human capacity for courage in all its forms.

The Essential Poets Series presents the works of Canada's most celebrated poets in a package that is beautiful, accessible and affordable.

Douglas LePan was a Canadian writer, diplomat and professor of literature. Born in 1914, LePan served in Italy with the Canadian Army during the Second World War—an experience he never forgot, and one that informed much of his literary output. He served in the Canadian foreign service before taking up an academic life, teaching at Queen's University and at the University of Toronto. He won both the Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry (in 1953 for *The Net and the Sword*) and for Fiction (in 1964 for *The Deserter*). Douglas LePan died in Toronto in 1998.

\$14.95 • 64 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-423-0



Viaticum

Jeffery Donaldson

MAY

What does it mean to think, to imagine, to create, to be? Why do we believe what we do? Is death an ontological state of being, or is it a grammar error? What exactly is poetry? The varied writings in Jeffery Donaldson's collection explore life's most basic questions—and its biggest illusions—from the nature of language to the rhetorical potential of the afterlife.

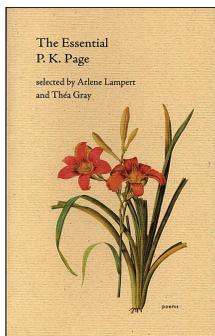
'When does a thought become part of a poem and when does it become part of some other form of writing? ... You jot something down and watch to see how it leans.'

In *Viaticum* Jeffery Donaldson presents selections from his notebooks that represent, as Wallace Stevens might say, 'a readiness for first bells'. These proto-arguments and poetic seedlings—musings on the process of thought, the power of language, the passage of time and the promise of the afterlife—wait to see if 'not yet' might be 'already something'. They offer glimpses inside the mind of a thoughtful poet, and provide readers with a spiritual conductor whose orchestral rehearsal culminates in no actual performance—'only the sense that we are ready now'.

Jeffery Donaldson is the author of six collections of poetry, including *Slack Action* (Porcupine's Quill, 2011), which was shortlisted for the Hamilton Arts Council Literary Award for Poetry and *Palilalia* (McGill-Queen's, 2008), a finalist for the Canadian Author's Association Award for Poetry. His most recent publication is *Fluke Print* (Porcupine's Quill, 2018). Donaldson has also written works of criticism on poetry and metaphor. He lives in Hamilton, Ontario, where he teaches poetry and American literature at McMaster University.

\$19.95 • 208 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

LITERARY CRITICISM/Books & Reading • 978-0-88984-422-3



The Essential P.K. Page

selected by Arlene Lampert and Thea Gray

ESSENTIAL POETS SERIES

P.K. Page needs no introduction. She is an alchemist who turns language into pure gold, a magician who dazzles with sleight of mind.

P.K. Page is a poet who writes in many genres and on an infinite number of subjects. The source of her poetry is always love—whether in vivid portraits of her inner and outer landscapes; startling insights into the past, the present, the future; illumination of some tiny detail of ordinary life; or admonishments for our neglect of the earth and of each other.

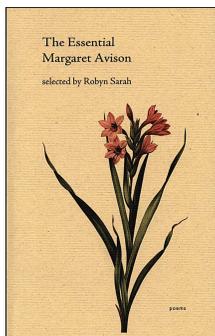
Selected by Arlene Lampert and Thea Gray, *The Essential P.K. Page* is admittedly wildly idiosyncratic and certain to be controversial. Arranged alphabetically for easy reference, these poems do not reflect a ‘young’ or a ‘mature’ voice; for Page, time is not linear and change does not occur along a narrow path. Think of this volume as a sort of pocket P.K. Page making its way into backpacks, carry-on luggage, doctors’ waiting rooms ...

This is the second volume in our Essential Poets series. Our aim is to provide the best possible introduction to a prominent Canadian poet by selecting key works that carry the essence of an individual poetic voice and sensibility. By offering a small but carefully considered selection it is hoped these chapbooks will invite an intimate acquaintance and ongoing engagement with the poems.

P.K. Page was born in England and raised on the Canadian prairies. She wrote some of the best poems published in Canada in the twentieth century. In addition to winning the Governor General’s Award for poetry in 1957, she was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1999. She was the author of more than two dozen books. She died in Victoria in January, 2010.

\$12.95 • 64 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-308-0



The Essential Margaret Avison

selected by Robyn Sarah

ESSENTIAL POETS SERIES

This volume of Margaret Avison's work showcases the development of one of Canada's most brilliant and original poets. Her vibrant life work is distilled into a selection that is illuminating, generous and richly varied.

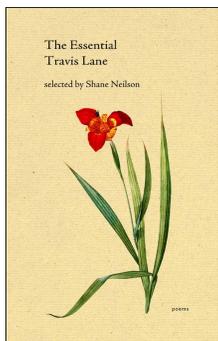
The sixth in the acclaimed series of Essential Poets, *The Essential Margaret Avison* provides an excellent introduction to this prominent Canadian poet and the evolution of her work. Robyn Sarah's selections amply celebrate Avison's diverse styles and forms, and reveal Avison's unique perspective on and response to her world.

Here, one can experience Avison's dazzling diction ('a saucepantilt of water', 'birds clotted in big trees'), her metaphoric and tonal complexities, and her quiet examination of the world in which she lived. *The Essential Margaret Avison* also traces her movement from skeptical intellectual to committed Christian. Though some scholars have dismissed her later religious poetry as simplistic and inferior to her earlier work, the truth is more complex, and the line between what is religious and what is not in Avison's poetry is difficult to draw. Robyn Sarah describes how Avison's work became 'more and more a poetry of inquiry, an inner pondering of her daily givens', in which her experience of the worldly and the transcendent are inextricably tied.

Margaret Avison was awarded the Governor General's Award twice—for her first book, *Winter Sun* in 1960, and in 1990 for *No Time*. Her published poetry up to 2002 was gathered into three volumes, *Always Now: the Collected Poems* (PQL, 2003), including *Concrete and Wild Carrot* which won the 2003 Griffin Prize. She was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1985, and died at the age of 89, in 2007.

\$12.95 • 64 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-333-2



The Essential Travis Lane

selected by Shane Neilson

ESSENTIAL POETS SERIES

This volume presents a selection of poems by a Canadian poet who combines exquisite observations of the natural world with profound thoughts about time and mortality.

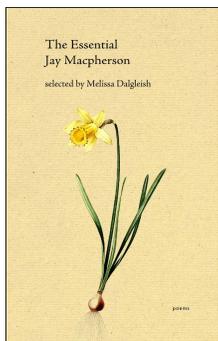
Inspired by nature, science, topics in the news, art and music, New Brunswick poet M. Travis Lane is prolific yet eschews the spotlight. She has won the Atlantic Poetry Prize, the Alden Nowlan Prize for Excellence and the Banff Centre Bliss Carmen Poetry Award, among a host of others. *The Essential Travis Lane* celebrates her lilting, insightful work by bringing to the fore a selection of her shorter poems—many of them out of print—that demonstrate her signature clear-eyed perceptiveness and rhythmic formal technique. Fellow poet and editor Shane Neilson has gathered poems from Lane's early books, published between 1969 and 1988, that evince a refined ecopoetics alongside spiritual concerns. These poems are fine examples of her linguistic mastery, as well as the wisdom and heart that characterize her voice.

The Essential Poets series presents the works of Canada's most celebrated poets in a package that is beautiful, accessible and affordable. *The Essential Travis Lane* is the 13th volume in the series.

Millicent Elizabeth Travis Lane was born in 1934 in San Antonio, Texas. She moved to Fredericton, New Brunswick in 1960 where to this day she holds the title of Honourary Research Associate for the Department of English at the University of New Brunswick. In addition to having published fourteen books of poetry, Lane's poetry reviews have appeared in a number of publications over the last fifty years, most notably in *The Fiddlehead*.

\$14.95 • 64 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-388-2



The Essential Jay Macpherson

selected by Melissa Dalgleish

ESSENTIAL POETS SERIES

An unexpected complexity is revealed in the poetry of Jay Macpherson, one of the leading figures of Canada's mythopoetic modernist movement.

Jay Macpherson's allusive lyricism and penchant for mythic resonance have made her work central to the development of Canadian poetry from the mid-century and beyond, influencing the careers of writers like Margaret Atwood among many others. Her wry, somewhat formal verse demonstrates an interest in ideas of duality and opposition as well as an enduring fascination with transforming ancient myths into contemporary commentary. Her unique blend of erudition, irony and musicality led her to win the Governor General's Award for Poetry and to become the first Canadian to receive *Poetry* magazine's Levinson Prize.

In *The Essential Jay Macpherson* editor Melissa Dalgleish brings together the poet's most recognized lyrics alongside unpublished or little-known works, charting Macpherson's poetic development and highlighting the splendid variety and complexity of her work.

The Essential Jay Macpherson is the fifteenth volume in the *Porcupine's Quill* Essential Poets series.

Jay Macpherson, born in 1931, was an author, publisher and educator central to the development of Canadian mythopoetry in the 1950s and '60s. She became the first Canadian to win *Poetry* magazine's Levinson prize in 1957 for her Ark poems. In 1958 she won the Governor General's Award for Poetry for *The Boatman*. In addition to her verse, Macpherson was the founder of Emblem Books and an instructor at the University of Toronto's Victoria College. Macpherson died in Toronto in March of 2012.

\$14.95 • 64 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"

POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-401-8

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